THE HISTORY OF Frier Rush,

How he came to a House of Religion to seek a service, and being entertained by the Priour, was first made under Cook. Being full of pleasant mirth and delight for young people.

London, Printed by *Jane Bell*, and are to be sold by her at the East end of *Christ-Church*, 1659.

THE HISTORY OF Friar Rush,

How he came to a House of Religion to seek a Service, and being entertained by the Prior, was set to work under Cook. Being full of pleasant mirth and delight for young people.

London, Printed by Jane Bell, and are to be sold by her at the East end of Christ-Church, 1655.

A pleasant History, how a Divell (named *Rush*) came to a Religious House to seek him a service.

There was sometime beyond the Sea, edified and founded a certain House and Cloister of Religious men, which House was founded at a great Forrests-side, for to maintain the service of Almighty God, and daily to pray for their Benefactors and Founders, and for the salvation of their own souls; which place by reason of their Founders, and well disposed people (which gave unto it largely of their goods and possessions) increased in riches, every man had Gold & Silver at their will, and also of meat and drink they had great plenty: in somuch that they were so much at ease and had somuch that they wist not what to do, they were so full of wantonness, whereby the service of Almighty GOD was not well maintained among them: for oftentimes they said neither Mattins nor Evensong; and through their great negligence they forgate clean the charge that they were bound to, when they entered into their Religion, and they lived more like beast without reason, then like men of good and holy conversation; for they haunted harlots and lived viciously, & the goods that was given them by good and well disposed people, they spend in unthriftinesse and cibaldry. And when the great Princes of Divells which are the Patrons of ill vices, understood of the great misrule and vile living of these Religious men, consulted to keep them still in that state, and woose if it might be.

And these be the names of the Devills.

Belphegor who was Prince of Gluttony, Asmodeus Prince of Lechery, and Belzebub Prince of Envy, with many other Devils assembled together; which reioiced for the unsorder of these Religious men. And as they were all assembled together with one accord, they chose a Devill to go and dwell among these Religious men, for to maintain them the longer in their ungracious living, which Devill was put in rayment like an earthly creature, and went to the Religious house, and there he stood at the gate a certain space all alone with an heavy countenance. Then within a while after the Priour came unto the gate, and espied Rush the young man standing there all alone. Anon he said unto him: What dost thou heard and what wouldst thou have? The young man with great reverence answered and said; Sir, I am a poor young man, and an out of service, and fain would have a Master. And Sir, if it please you to have me, I shall do you diligent service, and and shall do so well, that you and all your brethren and covent shall be glad of me, for I shall keep so well your secrets, that I trust to obtain at all times your good love and favour, and all theirs also.

And when the Priour heard these words, he was moved with pitty, and said: Go into the Kitchen to the Cook, and shew him that I have sent thee thither; and bid him shew thee what thou shalt do, for thou shalt be with him a certain season, till that time other betterthing fal. Then the young man made his reverence to the Priour, and thanked him, and forthwith went to the Kitchin, where he found the Master Cook. Anon he made reverence unto him, and said: Sir my Master the Priour hath sent me hither unto you, and commanded you to shew me what I shall do, for I must be here and help you. The Master-Cook answered and said; You be welcome. And anon he set him to such businesse as he had to do. And thus the Devill became under-Cook in the place that he was assigned unto, by the Prince of Devills. And then he said (laughing to himself) as followeth,

Then within four or five days after, it fortuned that the Prior came into the Kitchin, and there he found the young man, to whom he said, Whence comest thou Boy? and what is thy name? The young man answered and said, Sir, I was born very far hence, and Rush is my name. Then said the Prior unto him, Rush, canst thou tovele Pounds together? Yea Sir (said Rush) that can I do right well, and more than that, for I can couple men and women together, which is more mastry: and also Sir (if need be) I can convey a fair woman into your chamber, and convey her home again in the morning so secretly, that no man shall wit it. And also I shall keep your counsell so secretly, that it shall never be known. And when the Prior heard Rush speak so, he was right glad of him, and said, Rush, if thou canst do as thou hast told, I shall reward thee well for thy labour, and thou

shalt be my most well beloved servant: wherefore make an end of thy businesse, for soon, thou shalt go a little way on a message for me, and so he departed and went to supper. And when every man had supped, and Rush had done all his businesse in the Kitching, he came unto his Master the Prior, and said, Sir, what is your will with me? The Prior answered, and said: Here a little beside dwelleth a fair Gentlewoman, and which I love very well, but I dare not discover my mind unto her my self; and if thou canst find the means to bring her secretly unto me, I shall reward thee right well for thy labour and pain. And when Rush had heard the words of his Master, and knew all his mind, he answered and said, Sir, hee of good cheer, and let me alone with the matter, for I shall go unto the Gentlewomans house, and I shall say your message so well, that this night she shall come to you: and so departed Rush from his Master, and went straight unto this Gentlewomans house. And when he was thither come, hee found the Gentlewoman sitting all alone; and when Rush was espied of her, he made unto her great courtesie, and with many reverences these words he said:

How a Divell named Rush came unto a Gentlewomans house, and how he brought her privily unto his Masters Chamber.

BEst you merry, fair mistrisse, the most fairest creature in the world? My Master greeteth you by mee, desiring you so come and speak with him. Then said the Gentlewoman to Rush, who is your Master? and what is him ill with me? Fair Mistrisse, faith Rush, I will shew you, my Master is the Priour in a house of Religion here beside, and he loveth you so well, that except you come unto him this night, I know he will be dead for sorrow.

Here followeth the answer of the Gentlewoman.

AND when the Gentlewoman had heard the words of Rush, shee answered and said, Fair Sir, it were great

pitty

pity that the Gentleman should die for my sake, and rather than he should do so for me, I will come to him, and [illegible] himself [illegible] I am Rush [illegible] of those [illegible] for [illegible], and thought that his enterprise [illegible] brought to pass, and he said unto her [illegible] it please you to take the labour and go with me, I shall bring you to my [illegible] and as I suppose, bee will make you good cheer, and Gold and Silver you shall lack none, for he hath great plenty thereof. Then [illegible] the Gentlewoman [illegible] I [illegible] you [illegible] no depart hence: for as I [illegible] the Gentleman [illegible] they want both together [illegible] the Prisons Chamber [illegible]

was come, he was the glad man in the [illegible] Rush much for his labour and pain: And [illegible] received her into his Chamber, and there he made her [illegible] and they had good meat and wine great plenty. [illegible] they had well refreshed themselves, Rush departed and went to the Kitchin, and left the Prisoner and the Gentlewoman alone, and there shee saved the Prisoners life. And when Rush was in the Kitchin, he said unto himself: I am right glad that I have brought this matter so well to pass, and I doubt not but they will agree well enough together, for they be both

of

of his acts. And when the other Fryers perceived that Rush was such a [illegible] fellow, and so well could [illegible] Counsel, they desired him to [illegible] with them, [illegible] brought to every man, [illegible] that [illegible] they had great marvail. But they were so blinded with ignorance, that they never perceived that he was a very Devill, but every man had him in love and favour.

How Friar Rush threw the Master Cook into a Boule of water scalding on the fire, wherein he dyed.

IT befell upon a day that Rush went forth to sport him, and it was very late before he came home again, and the Master Cook was very angry with him that he was so long absent. And as soon as Rush was entred into the Kitchin: The Cook began to chide, and said unto him, thou horeson knave, where hast thou been so long? and with a great staffe he laid upon Rush, and beat him sore. And when Rush saw that the Cook was angry, and so far out of reason, and that he had beaten him sore: anon he began to waxe very angry with the Master Cook, and said unto him: Thou [illegible], why hast thou beaten me thus? I will be revenged on thee: and suddenly he

caught

caught him in his arms, and threw him into a great kettle which was full of water seething upon the fire, and said, Lie thou there in the Divells name, for now thou shalt neither fight nor chide no more with me. and so Rush slew the Master-Cook. Then when he had so done, he departed out of the kitchin, and went to the next Town to fetch the faire Woman again for his Master: and in his absence certain of the Fryers came into the kitchin to speak with Rush, but they found no body stirring there: and some of them went to stand by the fires side, to tarry till Rush came in, for they thought he would not tarry long: And as they stood talking together by the fires side, they spyed a man in the kettle seething upon the fire. And anon the perceived that it was the Master-Cook, whereof they were greatly abashed. And with that (crying out) they went unto the Prior and shewed him that the Master-Cooke had drowned himselfe in a kettle seething upon the fire in the kitchin: for which tidings the Prior was right sorry. And in the mean season Rush came home, and had conveyed the Woman into his Masters chamber. And anon the Friers shewed Rush of the great misfortune that was fallen on the Master-Cook in the kitchin, and he made as he had been sorry therefore, and had known nothing thereof, and he was in such great love and favour with the Prior & all the Friers, that they mistrusted him nothing for that deed, and so there was no more mention of the Master-Cook. Then the Prior commanded that Rush should be made Cook, and all the Covent was right glad of that, and so he was himselfe also, for he thought his enterprises came well to passe after his mind, and as he would have it. Thus Rush became Master-Cook in the kitchen, and dressed their meat marvellous well: for in the Lent, and in the Advent, both Fridays, and all other dayes, he put Bacon into their pottage pot: Which made the pottage to savour very well, and he dressed their meat so deliciously that the Prior and all the Friers had great marvell that he did it so well; in so much

that they said he did much better than their other Pastor-Cooke did, and that he was a more cunninger man in his occupation, and could do much better in his office. Thus Rush continued in that office the space of seven years, and did right well, and every man had him in love and favour. Then it fortuned upon a day the Prior and his Brethren were assembled together in a generall councell, and as they stood talking together the Prior remembred Rush, and anon he said unto his Brethren, Friends, we have here Rush, which is our Pastor-Cook, in our Kitchin, and he is an old servant, and much diligent and true service he hath done to us, and he hath continued among us longer then any servant that ever we had: wherefore me think it reason, that he were promoted unto some other office, and made a Brother among us. Then all the whole Covent with one voice said, They were content it should be so. So the Prior sent for Rush, and when he was come before him and all his Brethren the Prior said, Rush, it is so, thou hast been here a long season, and we have found thee hitherto a true and diligent servant, wherefore we will that thou be promoted, and take upon thee an habit as we have, and become a brother amongst us. Rush answered and said: My Masters I thank you all and then the Prior gave Rush an habit, and put it on his back, and so *Rush* became a Brother in peace, nevertheless he kept his office still.

How Frier Rush made Truncheons for the Friers to fight withall.

When Rush had on the habit of a Frier, and was a brother in the place, he had more vacation dayes then he had before. And as a King or great Prince prepareth Ordinances against their warrs, in like wise did Frier Rush: for when all his business was done in the Kitchin, and that he had leisure, he went and sate in the Porch of the utter-gate and there was making of God bigge Trunsheons of Oake. And he

he made them with Hilts over the hand for slipping, of the which the other Friers had great marvaile, and demanded of him wherefore he made those Truncheons. Rush answered and said: *Fair Sirs*, I make them for this intent, that if there come any theeves hither for to rob us, and to spoile our place, yet shall we have weapons to defend us withall. And therefore I make them. And moreover, when any need shall be, come to me, and every man shall have one, and they shall be ready at your commandment, and then the Friers thanked him, and so departed. Then it fortuned upon a day, that the Prioure and Sub-prioure fell at discord, and were grievously angry, the one with the other, and would have fought together, but onely for shame: Nevertheless, the anger abode still in their hearts and all was for an harlot. Within a while after, the noise spread abroad among the Friers, that the Prioure and the Sub-prioure were fallen at discord, for the which they were angry in their mind. And they that loved the Prioure, took his part, and they that loved the Sub-prioure, took his part, and so they murmured among themselves. Then they appointed in their minds, to revenge the quarrels at one time or other, and so to make a more surer way in fulfilling their malicious minds and angery hearts, every man after other went privily to Frier Rush to lend them staves, in so much that there was not a Frier in the place but he had one, and they never went without their staves under their habits, and the one knew not that the other had any, they kept them so secretly. And when Frier Rush had delivered all his staves, he was right glad in his heart, for he knew right well there should be a great fray among them, either one time or other. So it fortuned afterward, as it is a common custome among Religious people at an high Feast, to keep solemne service, and every man to be at Mattins at Midnight: and so upon a good night, all the whole Covent assembled together in the Quire, and were ready to begin Mattens, they tarried for nothing but for the coming of the Prioure. Then anon the

Priour came into the Quire, and sate him down in his place, and as he looked about him, he espied that the Subpriour was there present, and with that his heart began to grudge of the old anger that was fallen betwéen them two: and he thought in his mind that he could never be revenged in a better time: and suddenly he rose out of his place, and went to the Subpriour, and with his fist he gave him a good buffet, and the Subpriour which was moved with the stroak, started unto the Priour and gave him another buffet, and with that they went freshly together by the ears: and when the other Friers saw that, every man rose out of their places, and drew out their Truncheons, and together they went: who had bæn there should have sæn good buffets given on both parties. And when Frier Rush saw that they were fighting together, anon hée blew out all the Candles and Lamps that were burning in the Church, and left no manner of light therein, whereby the one might sée the other: and when he had so done, he took his Truncheon in his hand, and went into the Quire among the thickest of the Friers the which were fighting freshly without light, and there he laid so lustily about, that many of them he

felled

tested to the ground, and left them lying there for dead; and when he had so done, he stole his way from them, and as hée went, he found standing in the portall of the Quire, a great old Desk, and anon hée took the Desk betwéen both his hands, and threw it over the portall into the Quire among all the Friers, and hurt many sore, in so much that some had an arm broken, some a legge, and other some had their noses clean parted from their faces, that the blood ranne into their mouthes, and as for broken heads to the hard scalp were no dainty for every man had one, there scaped none frée away; who had béen there, should have had goodly pastime to sée the Friers créep about the Quire, and instead of (Domine labia) the cryed out alas and well aday. Then when the fray was done, and all the noise ceased, Rush came in among them with a Candle in his hand, and made as if hée had known nothing thereof, and said to them: Fie for shame Sirs, how fortuned this discord to fall among your selves? I sée well now you regard not your honour, nor the good name of your place. All the people shall say ye be not honest, nor good Religious men, the which words I would be loath to hear, and I may not suffer our place so to fall in an evill name; wherefore good Masters I require you to set your hearts at rest, and put the matter into my hands, and I shall so deal, that all shall be well, and you shall be good friends again, and no words shall be spoken thereof, then every man complained to him of their great hurt, and he made semblance as he had béen sorry therefore and then they that could go, went up to their Cells, and they that could not go, did créep as well as they could, and laid them down in their beds, and there they lay till they were whole again, and in the space of thrée wéeks and more God was evill served, for in all that space, they sung neither Mattins nor Even-song, nor ever entered into the Church, for it was suspended, and for shame they durst never let it bée known. And when they were all whole and every man upon his séet again, and might go about the house, they brought

again their staves to Frier Rush, and thanked him much, and then Frier Rush said unto them, Sirs, when you have need of them again, ye shall find them here ready at your commandment, for which they gave him thanks, and departed. When Frier Rush saw that they were gone, and that he had all his staves again, he laughed unto himself, and said: I am right joyfull that mine enterprises be come so well to passe, for I have done many mischievous deeds since I came first, and yet I will doe more before I depart hence, for I will cause them to be damned, and I shall bring their bodies, and souls into the burning fire of hell, there to remain world without end, and of me shall be spoken a thousand years hereafter.

How Frier Rush grymed the Waggon with Tar, and what cheer he made in the Country.

ANother time it fortuned that the Priour had a journey to ride into the Country about a little business that he had there to do, and anon he called Rush his servant unto him and said Rush go thy way into the Court, and take with thee a vishfull of greace, and greese well the Wheeles and Axeltrees of the Waggon, and make all things ready against to morrow in the morning, for I must ride forth to morrow betimes. When Rush departed from his Master, and went about his business, and instead of Greasing, he took a great vessel full of Tar, and anointed the Waggon all over with it, both within and without, and especially in the place where the Priour should sit: and when he had done, returned to his Masters chamber, then the Priour demanded of Rush if he had done as he commanded him: Yea Sir, said Rush, ye may ride when please you, and so they went to their beds. Then on the morrow after, the Priour and Rush his servant, with his other company, rose up very early in the morning for to accomplish their journey, and forth they went unto their Waggon, and when the Priour was entered therein, he perceived himself

himſelf all to beraped and ſmeared, and all his cloathes were ſmeared therewith: and then he ſaid to Ruſh, Thou lewd fellow

what haſt thou done to this Waggon that I am thus beraped therein? Ruſh anſwered and ſaid: Sir, I have done nothing but as you commanded me. That is not ſo, ſaid the Prior, for I commanded thee to take Greaſe, and greaſe but the wheeles and the Axeltrees, and thou haſt taken Tar and annointed it all over, both within and without. Why haſt thou done ſo? Sir, ſaid Ruſh, I underſtood you do bid me do ſo. And when the Prior ſaw there was no other remedy, he commanded his ſervants to make ready another Waggon, and in the meane ſeaſon, the Prior went into his Chamber, and put on another Habite, and came again and mounted into the Waggon, and went their way, and along they rode, until they came to their journeyes end. And when they were alighted at their lodging, the Prior called for his ſupper, and anon everything was made ready, and the good man of the houſe, and the Prior ſate down to ſupper together, and made good cheer, and then the Prior called for wine of the beſt; and anon he had his commandment. And when the good man of the houſe, and the Prior had ſupped, Ruſh and his fellows ſate

down

down to the reversion that their Platters had left, but they had no wine: wherefore Ruth was very sad, and ever he mused by what policy he might get some Wine. And anon he called the wife of the house and said: Mistress, I pray you fill a pot of Wine for me and my fellows, and so she did: and when that was done, they called for another, and then they called for the third, and so ended their supper. Then on the morrow when the Vintner had done all his business, and was ready to return home again, he called for a reckoning, and anon, the wife was ready, and gave him a reckoning, of all things, both horse meat and mans meat, and at last, she reckoned three pottles of Wine that Ruth and his fellows had. And when the Vintner heard that his servants had drunk so much Wine, he began to wax very angry, and asked her who commanded her to fill in so much Wine? the Wife answered and said: Sir, Ruth your servant commanded me to fill it in, and he said, that you should pay therefore. Then anon the Vintner called for Ruth, and said unto him, thou lewd knave, why hast thou drunk so much Wine? might no less then pottles serve thee and thy fellows? Sir, said Ruth, we have not drunk so much, for your horses have had two of the Pottles: Thy horses, said the Vintner, what should they do with Wine? Yes Sir, said Ruth, your horses laboured softer then we did and were very weary, and they had nothing but Hay and Oats wherefore, we thought it needful to give them some good drink in their sourie meat, to comfort their hearts withall, and to cause them to be lustier and to have the better courage to bring you homeward. And when the Vintner had heard that answer of Ruth, and saw there was no remedy but patience, paid for the Wine, and all that he had taken there, and so rode home to his Waggon, and after Ruth never went forth again with his Master.

How

How the Prior made Frier Rush Sexton among the Friers and how he charged him to give him knowledge how many Friers were absent from Mattins at midnight, and what they were.

When the Priour was come home he made Frier Rush Sexton of the Church: and his office was to ring the bell and to light the candles, and to call the Friers to Mattins at midnight, and also the Priour commanded Rush and charged him, that he should take good heed that there were none of the Friers absent from Mattins, and if there were, to give him knowledge thereof. Then said Rush to his Master, Sir, all your commandment shall be fulfilled, and so they departed. And within three or four nights after, Rush espied certain of the Friers that were absent, and he marked them well, and on the morrow after he presented them to the Priour, and anon the Priour caused them to come before him, and gave them a check for their being absent: in a little time Rush had presented them all, which caused the Prior to be greatly offended with them: when they perceived that Rush had made such complaints against them, they had him in much disdain, but they could not amend it: for he had them in such great fear, that never after they durst be absent, but well was he that might be first in the Quire. When Rush perceived the Friers had him in so great fear, he devised to do some mischievous thing among them: and upon a night, a little before he should ring to Mattins, he went and brake down the stairs of the Dorter, and when he had so done, he went and rung to Mattins, and lighted the Lamps and Candles in the Church, and went into the Dorter, and called up the Friers, and so came and sate at the stairs foot as hee was wont to do: he had sitten there but a while but anon there came one, who thought no hurt but to go soberly into the Quire as he was wont to do, and when hee came to the stairs, down he fell, and had a marvellous great

fall: then said Rush, thou art one. Presently there came another, and likewise down he fell and had a sore fall, thou art two said Rush. Anon came the third Frier, which had a mighty great belly, and was a grosse man, and he made great haste, for he sea-

red that he should have bin the last: when he came to ẏ staires, down he fell on his fellows necks, and hee was so great and so heavy, that he had almost mischieved his fellows that lay under him: thou makst three said Rush. And with that there came seven or eight together, and down they fell at once. Softly masters, for shame, said Rush, ye com too many at once, ye were not wont to be so hasty, but now I perceive well you would deceive me, & one would excuse the other, and therefore ye com so thick to blind me in my tale: how should I now give account to the Prior of them that be absent? Surely I cannot tel, but now

now I see well you bee too subtile for me, I would fayne other man had mine office, and made as though he had been very angry with them. Then the Friers such as could go, though it were to their pains, rose up again, and limping and halting they went into the Quire, and they that fell first and lay under, were sore hurt and could not go, and especially the Frier with the great belly: yet nevertheless, they crept into the Quire as well as they could. And when they were all assembled together in the Quire, each of them complained to other of their great hurts, and so they began Pattins: who had been there should have heard a heavy song and sad for they were not merry in their hearts, their pains were so great. When Pattens were done, they that could go, went up again into their lodgings, and they that could not go, lay still in the Quire all night: On the morrow word was brought to the Prior of the great misfortune that was fallen among the Friers at midnight: for the which misfortune the Prior was greatly displeased and angry in his mind, and thought verily it was Rush's deed, for he had done many evill turns before. When the Prior sent for Rush to come speak with him, and when he was come, the Prior said unto Rush, how fell this misfortune to night among the Friers, that they be so sore hurt? Sir, said Rush, I shall show you it is not unknown unto you, that when you put me first into this office, ye commanded me to give you knowledge when any of my brethren were absent from Pattins, and so have I done divers times, whereby many of them have been shent and chidden by you: and for that cause, they owe me ill will, and fain would have me out of this office, if they might how. And for to accomplish their desire, and to cause you to be pleased with me: I will show you what they have done this night. Sir, it is so, that when the time was come, I rung to Pattins and lighted Candles, and made all things ready, and when I had so done, I went into the Dorter to every mans Cell and called them up, then I went and stood at the stair foot, for to tell them as they

came down, as I was accustomed to do, and to know who came to Wattins, and who did not, and for spite that I should not reckon them, they came all on a Cluster, and for hast the one thrust the other down the stairs, and he that had the greatest belly, had the hardest fall: now if the hurt themselves, what might I do with all? And when the Prior had heard the words of Rush, he wist not what to say, but for to avoyd all tribulations and misfortunes that might fall in time to come, he put Rush out of his office, and set him in the kitchin again and when he was there all alone, he laughed to himself and said: this enterprize is well brought to pass, and I have made a good excuse thereof to the Prior, yet will I do more ere I depart out of this place.

How Rush went forth a sporting, and was late forth, and how in his way coming home, he found a *Cow*, which Cow he divided into two parts, the one half he took on his neck and carried it with him, and the other half he left still: and how soon he had made it ready for the Friers.

IT befell upon a time that Rush when all his business was done in the kitchin, he would go forth into the country to sport him, and to passe the time with good company: as he walked on his way, his chance was to come into a Village, which was two or three mile from the place where he did dwell, and when he was entred into the Village, he looked round about him in every corner to find out some company to make merry withall: and at the last, espied an Alehouse, and in he entred, and there he found good fellows playing at Cardes, and drinking, and made cheer: Then Rush made obeysance to them, and sate down among them, and drank with the Players, and afterward he fell to play, and was as merry as any man in the company: and so long he played and passed the time, that clean he had forgotten what he had to do at home, and the day went fast away, and the night approached

preached: Anon Rush looked up and perceived that it was almost night, remembred himself that there was nothing ready at home for the Priours supper and Covent, and it was almost supper time, wherefore he thought it was time to depart thence, so he payed for his drink and took his leave and homeward he went, and in his way he found a fat Cow grasing in

the field, and suddenly he divided her into two parts, and the one halfe he left lying there still and the other half he took on his neck and carried it home. and quickly he made it ready: some he put in his pot, and some upon the spit, and he made a great fire and set on the pot, and laid to the spit: and he made marvellous good pottage. and rosted the meat very well, and he made such speed, that every thing was ready by the hour accustomed to go to supper, whereof the Priour and all the Friers had great marvail, that he had made every thing ready so soon, and was so well done: for they knew that it was late ere he came home: for some of the Friers had been in the kitchin a little before, and saw neither Cook nor fire, nor any thing prepared towards supper: wherefore they gave great praise to Rush, and said, he was very quick in his office.

How a Farmer of the Priours sought his Cow, and how hee was desolated by the way homeward, and was fain to lye in a hollow Tree: and of the vision that he had.

There was a poor Husbandman, dwelling there beside, which was a Farmer of the Priours: the which poor man had a Cow abroad in the Fields that was accustomed every night to come home at a certain hour, and never failed. And at the last a mischance fell unto her, for Frier Rush had slain her as she stood in the Field, and so she failed of her coming home at her hour as she was wont to do. And when the poor man saw that his Cow came not home: hee thought in his mind it was not well with her, so forth he went in an evening

for to seek his Cow, and so long hee travelled about in the fields, that at the last hee found the one halfe of the Cow lying there: but the other halfe was cleane gone, and she was so cleanly divided in two parts, that he imagined in his minde, that it was not possible to bee done but by mans hands, for if any wild Beasts had done it they would have spoyled the flesh: so hee returned homeward again, and ere he came at the halfe way, the night was so dark that hee could not see which way hee went, and so he went

out

out of his way, and house could he find none: and at the last he came to an hollow tree wherein he sate him down, thinking there to take his rest all night, and he had not sitten there but a while, but anon there assembled a company of Divells, and among them they had a great principall Master whose name was Lucifer, and he was the first that spake and the first that was called, was a Devill named Belzebub, and with a loud voyce, he said unto them: Belzebub, What hast thou done for us? Belzebub answered and said: Sir, I have caused debate and strife to fall between brother and brother in so much the one hath slain the other; that is well done said the Master Divell, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then forth he called another Divell, named Incubus, and demanded of him What he had done? Sir said Incubus, I have caused great debate and strife to fall between two Lords, through the which they have had great Warrs, and many men have been slain: then said the Master Devill, thou art a true servant to us, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy great labour and pain. Then said the great master unto another Divell, named Norpell, what hast thou done for us? Sir said Norpell, I have been among players at the Dice and Cards, and I have caused them to swear many great oaths, and the one to slay the other: and also I have caused debate and strife to fall between man and wife, and caused the wife to cut her husbands throat; that was well done said the Master, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then forth came another Divell named Downesell, and said: Sir, I have caused two old women to fight so fore together, and to beat each other about the head, that their eyes fell out: that was well done said the Master Divell, with much thanks thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then forth stepped Frier Rush freshly and with a good courage, and said: Sir I am in a Religious place, and I govern the Prior and his Convent as I will my self, and they have me in great love and favour: for I do them many great pleasures, and I have brought them fair

fair Wenches every man one when they lust, and divers times I have caused debate and strife to fall among them, and I have made them staves and caused them to fight stiffy together, and to break each others head, and their arms and legges, and yet I will do more among them ere I depart out of the place, for I shall make so great debate and strife among them, that the one shall slay the other, and they shall come and dwel with us in Hell, and burn in perpetuall fire without end. Then said the master Devill to Rush: If thou have done as thou hast said, then hast done well thy part, and I pray thee be diligent thy self about thy business, and stir them them to sin, and especially to these three: that is to say, Wrath, Glutony, and Lechery, and briefly to make an end of thy enterprize, and slip it not: and when thou hast done come home, and thou shalt be highly exalted, and well rewarded for thy great labour and pain. When Rush had told his tale: the great Master Divell commanded every Devill to go his way and do the best he could, and thus they departed: some went one way, and some another: and thus they were scattered abroad in the world, to finish and make an end of their enterprises that they had taken in hand. And when the poor Husbandman which sate in the Tree, saw that all the Devills were departed and gone: he rejoiced in his heart and was right glad thereof, for as long as they were there, he was ever in great fear and dread, and he was afraid that they should have seen him there, and ever he prayed unto Almighty God to be his guard, and save him from that foul and evill favoured company of Divels, and to send him the light of the day that he were gone out of that place: for he was weary that he above there so long, and oftentimes he looked up, to see if his eyes could perceive any light of the day whereby he might see to depart thence, for till then he durst not once stir out of that place, for hee feared that they had been there still. Then within a while after, the day began to appear, and when hee perceived that, anon hee started up and looked round about him, and in the fields

and

and when he perceiued that there was no body ſtirring, he thanked almighty God that he was ſo preſerued out of that great ieoparoy, and ſo departed.

How the Farmer which lay in the Tree, came unto the Priour on the morrow after, and told him the words that he had heard, and the words of Frier Rush and that he was a very Deuill.

As ſoon as the day began to appear, the poor Farmer aroſe out of the Tree, and took his way ſtraight to the Priour, and he would neuer reſt vntill he had ſpoken with him, And when he was come to his preſence, anon he ſaid: Sir, this night hath befallen vnto me a great aduenture: how ſo, ſaid the Priour? Sir, yeſter-night late in the euening, I walked forth into the ſelde to ſeek my Cow, which I haue miſſed this foure or fiue days, and ſo long I wandred vp and down, till at the laſt I found the one half of my Cow but the other half was gone. And as I would haue returned home again, I was benighted, ſo much that I loſt my way; Then I knew not whither to go, but eſpying a hollow tree, I ſate me down, thinking there to take my reſt till the day appeared again: and I had not ſate there but a ſmall time, but inſtantly there was aſſembled together a great company of Deuils, which make a moſt fearfull and terrible noyſe, whereof I was ſore afraid.

They had among them a great maſter named Lucifer, who called all the reſt to make a reckoning of all their ſeruice which they had done ſince their departure out of Hell: There I heard many wunderous tales. At the laſt, forth came Frier Rush, then ſaid the great Maſter Lucifer unto him, Rush, what haſt thou done ſince thou departed out of Hell? And he anſwered, that he had ruled you, and all your Conuent, and cauſed you to ſtrike and fight, and were neuer at vnity among your ſelues, and he ſaid he had cauſed you to liue vicionſly, and yet he ſaid:

he would do more ere he departed out of this place, for he will cause you to kill one another, and then you shall be damned in Hell both body and soule. And so every Divell departed, and went about their business. Wherefore take heed, for he is a very Divel. And when the Prior had heard the words of the Farmer, he thanked him for his labour, and so they departed, the Farmer went home to his house, but the Priour was marvellously abashed at the words of the Farmer, and went into his chamber and was much grieved at his heart, that he had so lewdly miscarried himself against his Lord God; and with great contrition he kneeled down upon his knees, and asked Almighty God mercy, and forgiveness: for the great and grievous offences that he had committed, and done against him; and that he had so vilely misused the order of his Religion. And when he had thus done he departed out of his chamber, and went into the Cloister? and caused all his brethren to come together, and when they were all assembled, the Priour told them every word, as the husbandman had told him, and that Rush was a very Divell, and no earthly creature: at the which they were so astonished, and were right sorry in their hearts, that they had followed him so much in his mind, and done after his counsell, and were heavy in their hearts for their great and abominable sinnes that they had committed and done, and with great contrition they kneeled down upon their knees, desired Almighty God, for grace and pardon. Then the Priour caused every man to fall to contemplation, and Prayer. Then forth they went and did the Priours commandment, and briefely made them ready, and went to prayer all at once. And when they were come to the midst of their service, the Priour departed out of the Church, and went to the Kitchin, wherein he found Rush, who was there very busie: When the Priour commanded him to stand still, and by vertue of Almighty God, and of all the company of Heaven; he Conjured Rush into the likeneſſe of a Horſe, and commanded him to go and stand at the gate in the same place, that he

Rush

ſtod in when he came thither ſtill, and to ſtand there till ſer-
vice was done: ſo forth went Rush in the likeneſſe of a horſe,
and ſtod at the gate as the Priour had commanded him. And

when ſervice was done the Priour and all his brethren went to
the gate to ſee what caſe Rush was in: & when they were come
thither, they found him ſtanding in the likeneſſe of a horſe.
Then they demanded him to what intent he came into their
place, and why he tarried there ſo long? Sirs, ſaid Rush, I came
hither to cauſe you to do all miſchief as is aforeſaid, and yet I
would have done more ere I had gone hence: for I would have
cauſed you to ſlay one another, and to be damned both body and
ſoul. And when they had heard the words of Rush, every man
held up his hands and thanked Almighty God, that they had ſo
well eſcaped that great miſfortune. Then Rush deſired the
Priours licence to depart thence, and promiſed that he would
never more come there, nor do any man more hurt: upon that
condition the Priour gave him leave to depart. Thus Rush
departed from that place, and the Friers went to their Cloi-

ter, and lived there solitary and chaste ever after, and served Almighty God better then ever they did before.

The lamuntation that Rush made when he was departed out of the House of Religion.

When Rush was banished out of the house of Religion, and was turned into the same likenesse that he was, then he wandred abroad in the world with a verye heavy heart speaking these words, he said: Alas, alas, what shall I doe? I know not now whither to goe, for all my seuen yeares labour is lost. And as he wandered about, by fortune he met with his master Lucifer, but he would not have seen him by his will nevertheless his master espied him quickly and said to him, Rush what tidings with thee? Sir, said Rush, I have lost all my labour that I have gon about this seven years, how so said Lucifer? Sir, I shall shew you, said Rush. The last time that we were assembled together, there was a poor man lay in an old Tree hard before us, and he heard all that we said: and when we were departed, he arose, went into the Prioure, and shewed him all that we said, and especially the words which I had spoken and to all my labour is lost, and I am banished of that place. Well, said the Master Divell to Rush, thou shalt goe home other way, and look if thou can find any thing to doe: Then Rush walked about in the Country, and long it was ere he could get any service: At last he fortuned to come to a husbandmans house which lackt a servant, where he was entertained, but sore against the wives content, for this Husbandmans wife was a very fair woman, and she loved well the saith Patett, and he loved her as well, in so much that oftentimes they made good cheer and banquet together, and so continued and kept company together a long time. Their meeting was so private and so secret, that it was never known, and they were ever sure enough of the good man, for he was accustomed every morning

morning to rise early and to go farre into the Field, and because his wife would prevent his coming home to dinner, she would always give him his victualls in a bag with him, and bottle full of drink, to the intent that he should tarry in the Field from morning untill night: she would not suffer him to keep a servant, nor to have any manner of help: for she was afraid that if they should have a servant, her secrets should be known and the good man also feared, that if he should take a servant, that he should have but little let to tarry there: for the Divell himself could not indure the chiding and brawling of that Woman: by which means she kept her her husband without a servant a long time: For she knew well that as long as her husband was in the Field, the Priest and she might have their meeting: but at length she was deceived.

How Rush came to a Husband-man (labouring in the field) and desired to be entertained in his service.

RUsh travelling up and down, came to a Husbandman who was labouring in the Field, being all alone, & spake these

words unto him, Rest you merry sir, methinks you take great pains to work so sore your self: will it please you to entertain a servant? I am a poor young man and am out of service, and I am very willing to serve you if you please: and I trust to do you such service, as shall be to your good content. The Husbandman answered him and said, Young man, I would gladly give you entertainment, but my Wife will never be pleased with any servant that shall come into my house: Sir, said Rush, let me alone, for I shall so work the matter, that my dame shall be well pleased with me: well, said the Husbandman, tarry with me till I have done my business, and thou shalt go home with me: when he had finished his days work, Rush came home with him, they were no sooner come into the house, but the Wife espying Rush, she began to glowme and to look marvellous angry at him: which the good-man perceiving, he said unto her, Dame, I pray thee to be contented, thou knowest well enough that I have more labour to do, then I am able to make an end of alone, and therefore I have hired this young man to help me: when his wife heard those words, she was more angry then before, and began to brawle and scold as if the Devill had been in her, and said unto him: what a vengeance needest thou to take a servant? thou art able enough thy self to do all the businesse that we have to do, and why should we take more charge upon us than we are able to bear? but now I perceive thou art given to laziresse, and hast little mind to labour thy self: when the good-man heard her so highly displeased, he said, Dame, I pray thee be contented, the young man is honest, and he hath promised me to be a good servant: yet for all these speeches, she could not be pacified but brawled still. When Rush perceived the great impatiency, he said unto her, Dame, I pray you be contented, and be not angry with me, for you shall have no cause, my Master hath hired me but for a while, upon a triall, and I trust in that time, so to behave my self, as to give you both content: and when my time commeth out, if you like my

Service,

ſervice, you ſhall have it before any others whatſoever? If not, I will be very well content to depart. When the wife heard Rush ſpeak ſo reaſonably, ſhe pacified her ſelf, and ſaid no more: which cauſed the good man to be very glad, and ſo ſhe ſet them to ſupper, and as they ſate at meat, Rush demanded of his Maſter what he ſhould do the next day? His Maſter anſwered, thou muſt riſe early, and go to the Field; and make an end of that with I was about this day: (which, was a great dayes work) ſo when they had ſupt they went to bed. Early in the morning Rush roſe and went to the field and wrought ſo luſtily, that he had done his work betimes: for when his maſter came to bring him his breakfaſt, all his work was finiſhed, whereat his maſter had great marvell: then they ſate down to breakfaſt, which being ended, they went home, and did ſuch things as were there to be done: when his Dame ſaw that he had ſo ſoon done his buſineſſe, ſhe thought he was a profitable Servant, and ſaid little, but let him alone. In the evening Rush demanded of his Maſter what he ſhould do the next morning? his Maſter appointed him twice as much as he did the day before, which Rush refuſed not, but got up early in the morning, and went to the Field, and about his work: ſo ſoon as his Maſter was ready, he took his mans breakfaſt and came to the Field, thinking to help Rush: but he was no ſooner come from his houſe, but the Prieſt came to ſee his wife, and preſently the made ready ſome good meat for them to be merry withall, and while it was a dreſſing, they ſate ſporting together, who had been there ſhould have ſeen many loving touches. And when the good-man came into the field, he found that Rush had done all that which he had appointed, whereof he had great marvell: then they ſate down to breakfaſt, and as they ſate together Rush beheld his Maſters ſhoes, and perceived that for fault of greaſing they were very hard: Then ſaid Rush to his Maſter, why are not your ſhoes better greaſed, I marvell that you can go in them, they be ſo hard? Have

you

you no more at home? Yes said his Master, I have another pair at home, lying under a great Chest in my Chamber: Then said Rush, I will go home & grease them, that you may put them on this next morning: and then he walked homewards merrily, and sang by the way. And when he approached near the house, he sang very loud: with that, his Dame looked out at the window, and perceived that it was her servant: she said unto the Priest, Alas what shall we do now? our servant is come home, and my husband will not tarry long after him, and with that she thrust the meat into the Oven and all things else that were on the Table. Where shall I hide me said the Priest? go into the Chamber and creep under the great Chest among the Old shoes, and I will cover you, and so he did: And when Rush was come into the house, his Dame

asked him why he came home so soon? Rush answered and said: I have done all my business, and my Master commandes me to come home and to grease his shoes. Then he went into the Chamber and broke under the Chest, and there he found the Priest, and he took him by the heeles and drew him out, & said, thou whoreson Priest, what doest thou here? With that the Priest held up his hands and cried him mercy, and desired him to save his honesty & he would never more come there: And so Rush let him go for that time.

How Rush came home to clean the Stable, and how he sound the Priest under the Manger covered with strow.

Within a while after the aforesaid Priest began to wax warm, and thought once again to adventure himselfe and go to the Husbandmans house: When he perceived that the Goodman and Rush his Servant was in the Field a labouring, he went with all speed to the house, and when hee was entered, the Wife said hee was welcome, and made ready a good dish of meat, and set it on the Table before the Priest then she drew drink and sate down beside him: who had been there, should have seen many wanton toyes betwéen them two, and they had not sitten there long, but anon Rush came singing homeward, and when hee espyed him she was abashed and wisht not what to do, but thrust the meat into the Oven as she did before. Then said the Priest where shall I hide mee? Come with me, said the wife, into the Stable, and creepe under the Manger, and I will cover thee with straw, and tarry there, till hee hee gone again, and then shee turned again into the house where she found Rush her Servant, and anon shee demanded of him, why hee came home so soon? Rush answered that he had done as his business, and he was come to make cleane the Stable, and when the Wife heard that shee was sorry in her heart, for she doubted that he would

since

find the Priest again. Then forth went Rush into the Stable, and took a great Forke in his hand, and began to shake up the Straw: and when he came to the heape that the Priest lay in, the which seemed to him to be very great, yet nevertheless

with his Forke he took all up at once, and carried it out of the doore, and laid it on a great heap of Muck that lay there, and with his Forke hée shaked the Straw abroad, and when hée had shaken out a little, anon hée was aware of the Priests Gown: then hée said what a Divell art thou? and with his Forke hée turned the heape, and then hée perceived that the Priest was come againe: Then with his Forke hée gave him three or foure good drie stripes and said, Mahoreson Priest, what dost thou here? thou promisest mee the last day never more to come here, and now I sée thou art a false Priest, but now I shall make an end of thée, and then shalt thou never deceive me more. And when the Priest heard him say so, hée fell upon his

knées

knées and held up his hands, and prayed Rush to save his honour once again, and he would never come there more, and if he did then to doe with him what he would.

Thus Rush let the Priest goe the second time.

How Rush came home and found the Priest in the Cheese-basket, and how he crayled him about the Town.

THen within a fortnight, or three weeks after, the Priest though he was long absent from the Husband-mans wife, and though it should cost him his life, yet would he goe thither once again: And on a day he perceiving the good man was gon to the Field, he took his way unto the House, and was so hasty that as soone as he was come into the house, he caught the Wife, and would have embraced her, but the quickly got from him again, and went and provided good cheere for him, as she was wont to doe: for they thought themselves sure enough for the time, but yet they were deceived: For when the goodman was come to the Field, Rush had done all his businesse, then they sate down and brake their fast with Bread and Cheese, and as they sate eating Rush spied a hole in the Cheese, and then he said to his Master, I trow my Dame would poyson us, or else shee would not put the Basket that the Cheese lyeth in, behold it is all full of holes. I will goe home and wash the basket, and make it clean: So leaving his Master in the Field and walked homeward, he sung merrily all the way. And when he approached near the house: the Wife knew his voice, and perceived that he was comming, Then wringing her hands she said unto the Priest, goe hide you, or else you be but dead. Where shall I hide me said the Priest? Goe up into the Chamber and leap into the Basket, that hangeth out of the window, and I shall call you when he is gone again. Then anon in came Rush, and she asked him why he came home so soone? then said Rush, I have done all my businesse in the Field, and my Master hath sent me home to wash

your

your Cheese, baskete, for it is full of haires, and so he went into the Chamber, and with his knife he cut the rope that the Basket hung by, and down fell Priest and all, into a great poole of water that was under the window: then went he into the Stable for a Horse, and rode into the poole, and took the rope that hung at the basket and tied it to the horses taile, rode through the poole three or four times. Then he rode through the Town to cause the people to wonder at him, and so came home again, In all this while he made as though he had known nothing, but looking behind him, espied the Priest. Then he alighted down, and said unto him, thou shalt never more escape mee, thy life is lost. With that the Priest held up his hands, and said, here is a hundred pieces of gold take them and let me goe, so Rush took the gold and let the Priest goe. And when his Master came home, he gave him the galse of his money, and bad him farewell, for he would go to see the world.

How

How Ruſh became ſervant to a Gentleman, and how the Divell was conjured out of the body of the Gentlemans Daughter.

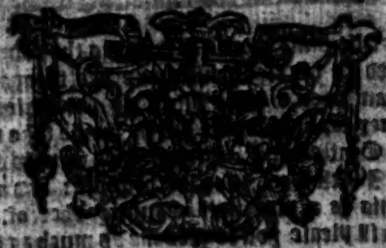
When Ruſh was departed from the Husband-man, he went abroad in the Country, to ſeek if he could find any more adventures: and ſo long he travelled about, that at laſt he eſpied a great Gentlemans place, upon the which hee tooke his way. And when he was come there, as chance was, he found the Gentleman walking up and down, before his gate. And when Ruſh was approached neer unto him, he put off his bonnet, and ſaluted him ſaying: Reſt you merry, good Gentleman. Welcome ſaid he. Sir, ſaid Ruſh, I am a poore young man and am out of ſervice, and fain would I have a good maſter. What Country-man art thou ſaid the Gentleman, and from whence comeſt thou? Sir, ſaid Ruſh, I was boyne far hence, and many a mile have I gone to ſeeke a good ſervice, but none can I find. What canſt thou do ſaid the Gentleman, and what is thy name? Sir ſaid Ruſh, I can do any manner of thing that ſhall pleaſe you to let me upon, & Ruſh is my name. Then ſaid the Gentleman unto him, Ruſh tarry here with me, and I will retain thee unto my ſervice. When Ruſh heard the Gentleman ſpake ſo, he thanked him much, and tarried there. Then as the Gentleman and Ruſh were talking together, the Gentleman ſaid unto him, Ruſh thou haſt travelled far, and gone thorough many ſtrange Countries: canſt thou ſhew me where to find any man can conjure a Spirit out of a woman body? Sir, ſaid Ruſh, why aske you me that queſtion? I ſhall ſhew thee, ſaid the Gentleman, I have a Daughter which is a faire young woman, but ſhe is ſore troubled in her mind, and as I ſuppoſe the hath ſome Divell within her body. Sir ſaid Ruſh, I pray you let me ſee her, and I truſt ſpeedily to finde remedy for her. Then the Gentleman brought Ruſh into the place and ſhewed him his Daughter. And when he ſaw her, he knew what ſhe had within her body: Anon he ſaid unto the Gentleman, Sir, there is remedy enough for this. Well ſaid the Gen-

tleman, if thou canst find me any that can help her, thereof, I will reward him well for his labour, and thee also. Sir, I will shew you what is to be done, there is a place of Religion a forty or fifty miles hence, wherein I was a servant long time, and the Prior is a cunning man in that science: and I doubt not but if he were here even now, she would be holpen within this hour. When the Gentleman heare the words of Rush, he rejoyced in his heart, and was full glad of all good tydings. And on the morrow after, the Gentleman sent his servant with his letter unto that house of Religion, desiring the Prior to come and speake with him. when the Prior had read the Gentelmans letters, and knew for what cause he was sent for, he made him ready to ride with the messenger. Then fourth they rod, and the next day they arrived at the Gentlemans place. When the Gentleman understood that the Prior was come, he was glad, and went to the gate and with great reverence he received the Prior, and brought him into his place. Then the Gentleman commanded his servants to fill a cup of Wine, that the Prior and he might drink together. And when they had drunke, and refreshed themselves well, they walked forth in a faire Garden, and then they communed together of many things, and when they had finished all their communications, the Gentleman said unto the Prior: Sir, the cause that you be come hither is this. It is so that I have a young Gentlewoman to my daughter, which is grievously vexed, and troubles in her mind, and as I suppose she hath some wicked spirit in her body, and Sir, it was shewed me by a servant of mine which was long servant in your place, that you could help her. Sir, said the Prior what is his name? The Gentleman said his name is Rush, and when the Prior heard his name he knew him well enough and said unto the Gentleman, Sir, cause the Gentlewoman to come before me, and I trust in almighty God, shortly to find a remedy for her, and when the Gentleman heard the Prior speak so, hee was glad in his heart, and commanded in all haste to bring forth his Daughter before the Prior:

Priour: and when she was come into his presence, he commanded her to kneele down upon her knees, and also he commanded her Father, and her Mother, and all the company that were there present, in like wise to kneele upon their knees, and pray unto Almighty God for the Young Gentlewoman. And then he himself said certaine praiers over her: then he lifted up his hand and blessed her, and incontinently there flew a great Divell out of her mouth. And the Priour bound the Divell so,

that never after he came there. Thus was the young Gentlewoman restored to her right mind, and health again. Then the Gentleman would have given to the Priour a great summe of money for his labour, but he would take none, but said unto the Gentleman: Sir, I have a new Church in Building, and I lack Lead to cover the roofe: and as it is informed me, this is a plentifull Country thereof. Wherefore Sir, if it will please you to give me so much as shall serve me, I and my Brethren shall be you daily Beadsmen, and you shall be prayed for as long as the World endureth.

Pri-



FINIS.